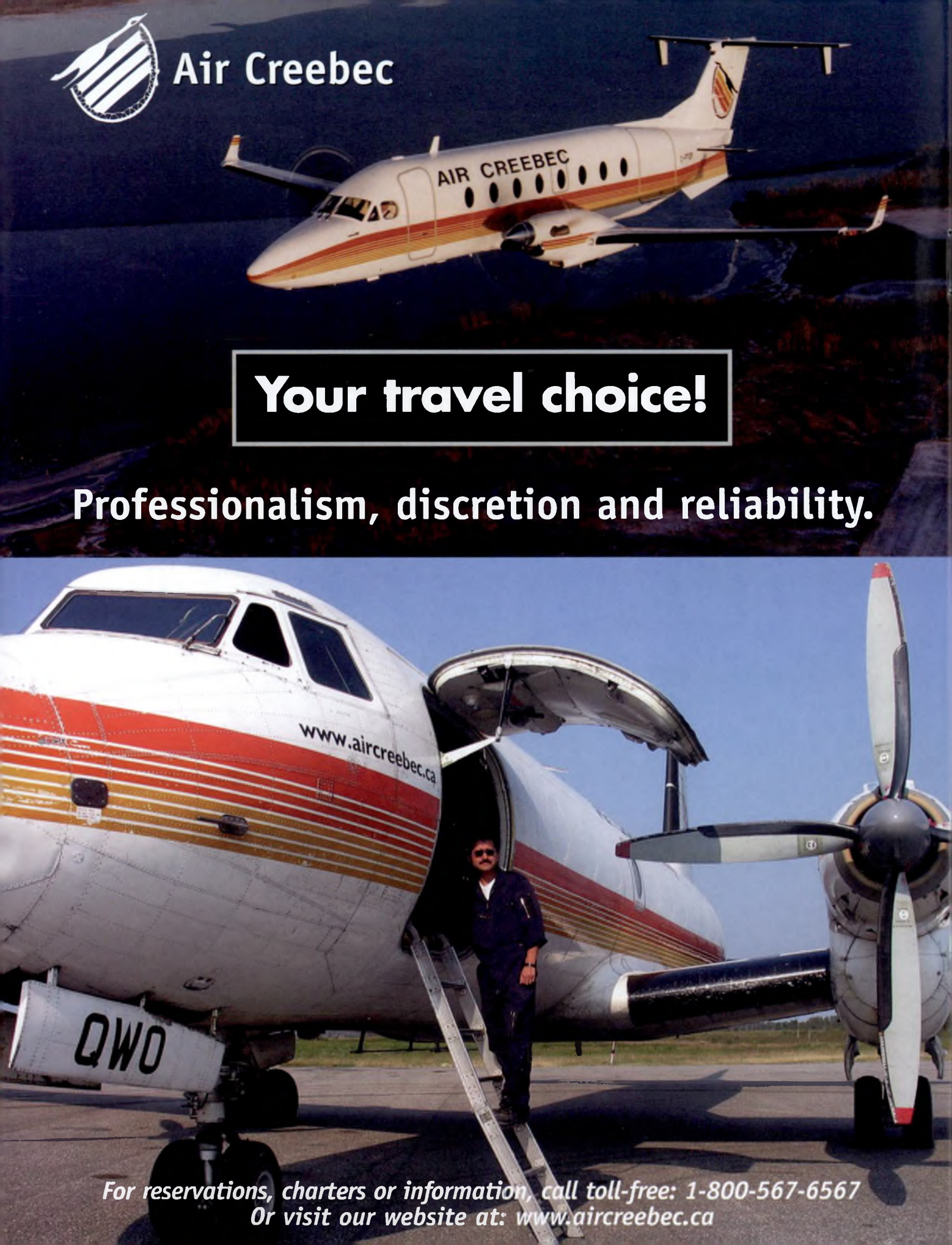
Nation
Volume 15, No. 07 • February 15, 2008

MBJ fears Cree police

Eastmain to hold special election

$2 Free in *Iyiyuuschii*
Serving *Iyiyuuschii* since 1993
Canada Post Publication No. 40015005


Air Creebec
AIR CREEBEC
Your travel choice!
Professionalism, discretion and reliability.
www.aircreebec.ca
QWO
For reservations, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567
Or visit our website at: www.aircreebec.ca

See no evil, hear no evil...

by Steve Bonspiel and Will Nicholls

The dictionary definition of transparency reads: *The full, accurate, and timely disclosure of information.*

Transparency is one of the most important words everywhere in the world, but it seems especially pertinent these days in Eeyou Istchee.

Cree territory has been hit with its share of questionable activity in the past; from money stolen at a bank in Waswanipi to missing monies from the housing fund in Waskaganish, just to name two examples. Such incidents and others will continue to rear their ugly heads as long as transparency is seen as a four-letter word.

Whether you are running a large company or have been elected to office as chief of your community, transparency has to be a central part of the way you govern or you will look dishonest, even if you have never committed any crime or wrongdoing.

True, there are legitimate reasons not to speak to the media. Police may not speak on cases involving an ongoing investigation, for example. It is then that information given out may hinder or damage the investigation, prosecution or defence.

In the bizarre case of Eastmain Chief Lloyd Mayappo and Deputy Chief John Brown, however, transparency seems to be an afterthought (see story page 5).

A meeting was called on January 23 to "Expose and explain to the members of the Cree Nation of Eastmain that the Council of the Cree Nation of Eastmain has become dysfunctional as a result of confrontations that keep arising between the Deputy-Chief and the Chief."

Normally, a chief or any elected official should be chomping at the bit to tell his or her side of the story, why they called the meeting and what direction the leadership intends to go. Not only is this good politics, but it is a prime responsibility of all elected officials. You are in the public eye and you are responsible to your electoral body, both on and off reserve, whether they attended the meeting or not. Not this time, apparently.

As has sometimes been the case in the past when *the Nation* has requested by-laws or other public documents from various organizations in Eeyou Istchee, certain officials and their staff are not as open or as forthcoming as democratic norms require. Chief Lloyd Mayappo, unfortunately, has joined this group on this issue.

According to Mayappo, someone at the meeting told him not to speak to the media. Thus, based on this flimsiest of excuses, Mayappo is refusing to inform the members of his community who were unable to attend the meeting what happened there.

It is surprising, to say the least, that a public meeting can in this fashion suddenly become less than public. Mayappo and his council control the community's purse strings, and every single member of that community has the right to know if their community government is acting in a responsible fashion.

The precedent this decision sets is not good. *The Nation* prides itself on reporting the latest events – good or bad. That includes a public meeting that the people have a right to know about.

By refusing to talk about what happened in a public meeting is a betrayal of the public's right to know – especially on matters as crucial as the community's leadership. The foundation of democracy is transparency.

In order for politicians at every level of Cree politics to be respected and truly viewed as open, honest and working for the people, transparency must not only be the starting point but also the objective.

Contents

editorial

See no evil, hear no evil... 3

rez notes

When holidays collide 4

news

Eastmain referendum fails 5

MBJ fears Cree police 7

In brief 9

feature

Mistissini tackles vandalism and violence 11

Spotlight on churches 15

Going green at the auto show 16

The Medicine Wheel 19

Montreal's Igloofest 21

Letters 23

Under the Northern Sky

Extreme challenges 25

on the cover:
Proud 10 year old Faith Gertina Moses with her first caribou.

photo:
Justin Dave Monroe Tomatuk.

by Sonny Orr

When holidays collide

I was recently at the local store when I noticed a strange thing: Valentine's Day items were slowly being edged out by Easter offerings. I checked the date quickly to see if I didn't have some kind of two-week memory lapse and yes, it was still the first week of February. My internal clock was correct – there was still time for romance, albeit right next to my Easter instincts to look for chocolate galore, heart-shaped or bunny-shaped. I thought, my God, I will overdose on chocolate this year. What a quandary.

I thought Groundhog Day is supposed to be sometime around this season, will he appear instead of the bunny? Aside from disappearing back into ground for another several weeks of winter, which is what I would do if I were a groundhog, what respect does the ground rat have over affairs of the heart and cuddly bunnies? All I know is that all these special events are too close together to enjoy due to their rapid succession in this years' calendar.

Back to what's happening in the Rez... It seems that many people are generally lackadaisical about general referendums and local politics. The fact that council routinely passes borrowing bylaws putting us further into debt to build homes for people who can't afford them receives only an occasional yawn from those who might question the need. If we just passed a borrowing bylaw a few months ago, why is there another one now? The truth is, it happens every year folks, borrow to build homes to live in or hunker down in shanties, what will it be?

Another local phenomenon is directly related to the Christmas holidays. It's called starving January, when all those presents catch up in the mail in the form of credit payments, and the question is: keep the credit or go without paying to cover for necessities? Why is it that when Santa disappears, so does the bank account? Is there a connection? Why can't Christmas be in the summer, like in Australia, so we can go for a swim right before hanging the stockings? Some mysteries will remain forever unsolved.

Now that February has crept up on us, the hearts are out in full force, demanding attention and affection and more chocolate. Isn't there a holiday that isn't celebrated with sugar? Can't we replace all those sweets with protein, a ptarmigan heart instead of a chocolate one? A snared rabbit instead of an Easter bunny would be more appropriate for those stricken with diabetes.

As for that dumb groundhog, someone should have shot the cantankerous critter before it hopped back into its hole in the ground, because it's damn cold out there right now. When will the spring months poke their heads out? Where's global warming when you need it? Why can't those scientists (I learned that scientists are a generic term, used every other minute in An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore) get it exactly right once in a while? Aren't they scientists anyways, aren't they supposed to be exacting? As far as we are concerned, it's just another humdrum winter and we'll wait it out somehow.

the Nation is published every two weeks
by Beesum Communications

EDITORIAL BOARD
W. Nicholls, L. Stewart, N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Will Nicholls

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Steve Bonspiel

IYIYUU AYIMUUN EDITOR
Brian Webb

COPY EDITOR
Lyle Stewart

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
S. Jacobs, A. German, X. Kataquapit, C. MacKinnon, S. Orr

PHOTOGRAPHY
S. Bonspiel, N. Diamond, W. Nicholls, D. Valade

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES
Linda Ludwick

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Danielle Valade

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Claire MacKinnon

LAYOUT & PRODUCTION
R. Lawson

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:
the Nation PRODUCTION OFFICE
4529 CLARK, #403
MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3
EDITORIAL & ADS
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914
the Nation HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0
www.beesum-communications.com
E-MAIL ADDRESS:
Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com
news@beesum-communications.com
Ads: ads@beesum-communications.com
Classifieds: beesum@beesum-communications.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS:
$45 PLUS TAXES
ABROAD: INDIVIDUALS: $70 U.S.
ABROAD: INSTITUTIONS: $85 U.S.
PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS
PRINTED BY IMPRIMERIE LEBONFON
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005
ISSN #1206-2642
the Nation IS A MEMBER OF:
THE JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,
CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,
MAGAZINES CANADA
QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN.
CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSN.
LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Magazine Fund toward our editorial costs.

Canada

Eastmain election referendum fails

Dispute between Brown and Mayappo leads council to call vote

By Steve Bonspiel

They say too many chefs spoil the broth. The community of Eastmain is proving that when two chiefs stir the soup too long and too hard, the whole kitchen can come crashing down.

Now the community of Eastmain will decide if a new election can improve the band council's political recipe.

Chief Lloyd Mayappo called a special meeting January 23 to air his concerns over an ongoing dispute with Deputy Chief John Brown and to demand Brown resign his position. Mayappo had previously sent a letter to Brown outlining his complaints, and accusing Brown of disrespectful actions and statements.

"I CANNOT AND NO LONGER WILL TOLERATE YOUR BEHAVIOUR"

"I cannot and no longer will tolerate your behaviour," wrote Chief Mayappo. "You had started acting this way when Edward [Gilpin] was chief and you seem to have made this your trademark, getting bolder and louder all the time."

Given many opportunities to explain the situation, however, Mayappo remained tight-lipped. When contacted by *the Nation*, he said simply that some people present at the community meeting had asked him "not to release any information to the media," and he refused further comment before abruptly hanging up on a *Nation* reporter.

A January 14 press release stated that the purpose of the meeting was to: "1. Expose and explain to the members of the Cree Nation of Eastmain that the Council of the Cree Nation of Eastmain has become dysfunctional as a result of confrontations that keep arising between the Deputy-Chief and the Chief."

Among the proposed solutions was "to indicate by vote that one or more resignations be tendered in order to resolve this crisis."

The council ultimately decided to hold a referendum on February 4 with the simple question, "Do you want another election for Chief and Deputy Chief?"

The results, however, produced a low voter turnout of less than 50% so the referendum is not binding.

Deputy Chief Brown said a meeting would be held to decide what to do next.

The January 23 meeting was held mostly in Cree, a language John Brown does not speak, partly because he lived in Labrador for much of his life.

Chief Lloyd Mayappo

"He spoke in Cree and he did not provide me with a translator. I don't think he wanted me to understand exactly what he was saying," said Brown.

In the end, the community examined three ways to deal with the problem, including getting rid of all council members and holding a re-election for a new band council. Brown agreed with none of them.

"I finally got to speak after three and a half hours and I read a statement," said Brown.

He said in the statement that he was not there to "drag people's names through the mud, however, this is what it appears is the intent toward me."

Brown went on to defend himself and caution the community against the precedent this meeting was setting.

The long-running feud between Mayappo and Brown stems from the election of September 2005, when Brown was re-elected and Mayappo won his first term as Chief. An initial conflict, according to Brown, was Mayappo's and other council member's unwillingness to pay rent on houses rented through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Brown was adamant that, to set a good example, everyone on council had to pay their rent.

Mayappo caused a stir in the community after he was involved in an early-morning brawl at L'Escale Hotel in Val-d'Or soon after his election as Chief. He admitted to punching a man in the face because he felt he had been verbally attacked. The other man was then pounced on by another man and a woman. Charges were never laid.

Brown said that despite the situation, he is willing to continue to work with Mayappo and he said that resigning his position as Deputy Chief was out of the question.

"I would not consider resigning until the people voted me out," said Brown. "They gave me the confidence by nominating and electing me by a sizeable margin. To me it's a message that they like me and what I stand for."

PETRONOR

Distributor of petroleum products and lubricants in all the James Bay Territory.

Services:

Delivery of petroleum products in bulk,
Aviation fuel, Rental of movable tanks

Products:

Unleaded gas, Clear and colored diesel,
Stove oil, Jet-A, 100LL and Lubricants

Addresses:

www.petronor.ca

Radisson Depot:
Tel: (819) 638-8222 Fax: (819) 638-7107

La Grande Rivière Airport:
Tel: (819) 638-4547 Fax: (819) 638-4547

EM-1 Construction Site:
Tel: (819) 865-2045 Fax: (819) 865-2039

Chisasibi Gas Station:
Tel: (819) 855-2427 Fax: (819) 855-3462

Administration Offices:
Tel: (819) 824-5505 Fax: (819) 824-5420

SALES & SERVICE **PROFESSIONAL**

Invest $200k-$300k & receive a guaranteed return + capital appreciation!

Join one of Canada's leading Travel Management Companies (TMC's) as a, sales & service professional, serving First Nations and Inuit Institutions and Organizations senior executives needs.

Benefits Include:
Minimum 25% return on investment – guaranteed!
Guaranteed business buy back
Initial & Ongoing training
Professional sales and service environment
State of the art internet based technology
Low cost – home based business
Significant financing available to qualified MKI Franchisees - OAC
Be your own boss
Peace of mind - controlling your own destiny
Much more

Interested parties visit: **www.mkitravel.com/franchise.**
This is not an offer to sell a MKI franchise.
Please contact Ron Greenwood for a copy of our Disclosure Document, at **rgreenwood@mkitravel.com,** or call 613-244-1234-ext. 3355.

MKI Travel & Conference MANAGEMENT
Dedicated service is just a call away. *Anytime. Anywhere.*

Norauto
SUZUKI
23, Route 111 Ouest, Amos
819-732-5352 ask for Mike

Norauto Suzuki.
Your first car dealership entering Amos.

1998 Ford Expedition "Eddie Bauer" $ 8,995

2007 Suzuki XL7, 7 passengers.
Special Price $25,995 + transport & delivery fees

2008 Ford F-250 XLT 4x4 $35,900

2005 GMC Yukon SLT $26,900

2007 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4 $30,900

2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee $23,900

2007 Jeep Liberty Sport $22,900

www.norautoamos.com
*More than 100 vehicles available
*Second credit chance
*Open on Saturday
*All services at the same place

MBJ mayors fight Cree police

Presentations to government committee shows deep opposition to policing deal

By Steve Bonspiel

The non-Native opposition to employing Cree officers to police Cree lands was taken to a new level in late January as mayors of the Municipalité de la Baie James (MBJ) pleaded with Quebec MNAs to defeat Bill 54, the amendment to Quebec's Police Act that would enable effective policing of the vast territory.

The Matagami Mayor René Dubé said that having Crees patrol category I lands was different than policing the rest of the territory. "It's their right [on category I], but category 2 and 3 land is the Quebec governments' responsibility," he said. "That's what we ask and we want to be sure, that they go through the same training and courses [as do officers from the Sûreté du Quebec]."

In fact, all police officers in the province, be they Cree, SQ or municipal, are trained at the same facility, using the same techniques, at the training centre of Nicolet. That fact was emphasized when the debate started late last year after MBJ Chairman Gerald Lemoyne criticized the policing agreement between Quebec and the Grand Council. He said in a Journal de Montreal article that Cree police officers should not be allowed to patrol other towns in the MBJ because they were not fully qualified.

The policing deal, which is over 30 years in the making, is enshrined in an amendment to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Lemoyne and other mayors are hoping that it can be changed to ensure non-Native Quebecers in the Municipalité de Baie James are not policed by Cree officers.

Grand Council Executive Director Bill Namagoose called the comments racist. Lemoyne said his comments were taken out of context.

IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES TO THE CURRENT FORM OF THE BILL AS IT IS, IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE CREE NATION.

Testimony before a National Assembly committee by some of the mayors of the MBJ and Cree Chief Matthew Mukash were held to clarify the concerns MBJ mayors had with Bill 54.

When the National Assembly reconvenes in March, the members of all political parties will bring their findings to Quebec City and discuss whether more questions need to be answered. The bill will then either be passed, changed, or quashed.

Grand Chief Mukash talked about the importance of the new policing agreement, which would see Cree policing become regionalized as opposed to its current format of nine separate local stations.

The police force would be able to respond to calls, for example in Chibougamau, if a Cree were involved. It is seen by the GCC as a joint partnership between the Cree Nation and their neighboring communities.

"Quebec agreed to allow for the establishment of a Cree Regional Police Force with certain negotiated jurisdictions on category I lands, and the Crees agreed to drop their claims regarding Chapter 19 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement," Mukash explained, an agreement which was part of the Paix des Braves.

"The complementary agreement Eeyou-Eenou Police Force will be responsible for police services within category 1A and 1B lands, as well as category 2 and 3 lands, within the parameters of category I lands as provided by the Paix des Braves."

But others were not happy with the process.

MBJ Councillor Colombe Fortin said "it is unacceptable, in our minds, that the population and the Jamesian authorities cannot be an integral part of discussions involving a subject as essential as police on the territory."

Quebec Indian Affairs Minister Benoit Pelletier questioned Mukash about the Grand Council's willingness to open up the consultation process to the MBJ mayors.

"If there's a change in the bill, in order to clearly specify that the government will consult these municipalities, is it something that appears acceptable to you?" Pelletier asked.

Mukash said that originally, Crees were supposed to be members of the provincial police force and that the Crees had already taken a step back on that. "If there are any changes to the current form of the bill as it is, it is not acceptable to the Cree Nation," Mukash said.

HONDA de Val-d'Or

1720, 3rd Avenue, Val-d'Or
Tel: 819-825-7838
Fax: 819-825-8855
Toll free: 1-877-525-7838

www.hondadevaldor.ca
Roadside Assistance 1-800-465-7587

2008 Ridgeline LX 4WD,
all equipped, 10.1L/100km,
for $438.00/month
with $0 cash-down
(OAC, 48-months lease,
96,000km included).

Honda de Val d'Or's "Win your purchase!" event
until April 30th

2008 Pilot LX 4WD,
all equipped, 9.7L/100km,
mag wheels included,
for $488.00/month
with $0 cash-down
(OAC, 48-months lease,
96,000km included).

0.9% financing up to 60 months
on both vehicles

Amazing rebates
on Honda generators.
$200.00 on EU 1000IC
and $450.00 on EU 2000IC models

GRADUATE PROGRAM HONDA

Recent university or college graduates may be eligible for an allowance of up to $750.00 on certain models. See participating Honda Dealers for complete details.

TOP SAFETY PICK 2007
INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

COMPLIMENTARY FILL-UP
All new Honda vehicles are delivered with a full tank.

FIVE YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM

Robert Bosum, 1917 – 2008

Robert Bosum of Ouje-Bougoumou passed away January 24, only three weeks before his 91st birthday (February 15). He was the oldest man living in Ouje.

Bosum and his wife, Emily Capissisit, were known for their generosity, said his daughter Anna Bosum. They adopted many children of the community in the traditional way and treated them as their own, including a non-Native person.

Harry Bosum remembered his grandfather as a good moose hunter. The Elder was also known for walking great distances to get supplies, before there were roads to his community.

But he had a heart condition and suffered from kidney failure. He was at his daughter's Ouje home (Alice Shecapio-Blacksmith) when he died. Robert Bosum is survived by his five children, 40 grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at the Ouje-Bougoumou Healing Centre and the Chibougamau Hospital for the excellent care they provided for Robert Bosum.

Phosphate free in 2010?

According to a law recently passed by the Quebec government, selling dishwashing detergents containing more than 0.5% phosphates will be outlawed in 2010. Phosphates are a main cause of the blue green algae contaminating a growing number of Quebec lakes.

The Jean Coutu chain of pharmacies isn't waiting. It will voluntarily stop selling dishwashing detergents that contain phosphates after its current inventory is exhausted. Mathieu Vermette, a clerk at a Longueuil branch, says that the dishwashing liquids containing phosphates are being sold but not reordered. These detergents are being replaced by detergents from companies like Bio-Vert and Bio-Spectra.

The hope is that more companies will decide to take phosphates out of their detergents before the law comes into effect in 2010, so that our lakes can be cleaner sooner.

Yellow Quill Community mourns the loss of two toddlers

Two young girls, Santana Pauchay, 1, and Kaydance Pauchay, 3 were found frozen to death in snowdrifts not far from their home on the Yellow Quill First Nation in Saskatchewan January 29. They left their home after midnight with their father, Christopher Pauchay, 25, and headed to their neighbour's house approximately 400 metres away. The sisters were dressed only in shirts and diapers in the minus-50 degree weather.

The little girls never made it, and their father was found on the neighbour's doorstep at 5:30 am suffering from hypothermia, frostbite and alcohol consumption.

It was only that afternoon when Christopher Pauchay began asking how his daughters were doing that anyone realized they were missing.

Kaydance was found several hours later, and her sister was located the next day.

Although authorities are still unclear on exactly what happened that night, the girls' family believes alcohol played a role.

"The only reason I think this happened is to give my community a wake-up call," Irene Nippi, grandmother of Santana and Kaydance, told Canwest News Service. "It's such a tragedy, but yet my grandchildren weren't buried in vain…I hope there's change now that happens – a lot of changes like no alcohol and counselling and stuff to be brought in here. Our old teachings should be brought back."

A ceremonial fire was lit the evening of February 1 during the wake for the girls and the funeral took place the next morning at the band hall. The mother of the girls, Tracy Jimmy, attended with Christopher Pauchay, who was brought by ambulance from the hospital where he is recovering from his injuries.

The RCMP is continuing to investigate the tragedy and will ask the Crown to recommend whether charges should be laid.

A community meeting is planned to help the Yellow Quill First Nation deal with the tragedy and to decide whether they will ban alcohol consumption.

Juno calls Yellowbird's name

Aboriginal country music sensation Shane Yellowbird has picked up a Juno nomination for Best Canadian Country Album for "Life Is Calling My Name."

Yellowbird's debut album immediately shot to the top of the charts with hit singles like "They're all about you," and, "Pick up truck."

Yellowbird is no stranger to pan-Canadian recognition as he also won the Rising Star Award at the Canadian Country Music Awards last year. That award came on the heels of his awards for Best Male Artist, Best Country Album and Best Album of the Year at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards.

The Juno awards will be held in Calgary on April 6.

Suspected bootlegger busted

Chisasibi police cracked down hard on one of the community's bootleggers January 25 in a raid on a house belonging to local resident Daniel Martinhunter.

There is a pending charge of bootlegging against Martinhunter, according to interim Police Director Robert Shem. However, *the Nation* could not confirm by press time if it was accepted by the Crown.

Alcohol, cigarettes and cash were seized but the amount was not disclosed.

YOUTH AND ELDERS GATHERING

ᐊᑦ ᓂᔮᐧᐃᔨᐦ ᒋᔭᐗᔨᐅᐦ ᑭᔮᐦ ᐅᔮᒋᓂᐅᐦ

Honoring our ancestors who protected and preserved our way of life

ᐊᑦ ᒪᓯᐦᐃᐧᓂᓄ ᐊᐢᑭᐦ ᒋᑎᐗᐃᔨᓂᐅᐦ ᑲ ᓴᑭᐧᐃᔨᓂᐅᐦ ᐁᐦᐊᐧᐃᐧᐃᓯᐦᑎᐦ ᐊᑦ ᐃᔨᔨ ᐱᒪᒋᐧᐅᔨᐧᐃᐧᐣ

March 11-15, 2008 Ouje-Bougoumou Eenou Istchee, (Waposite Lake)

For more information, please contact:
Leonard Matthews, Coordinator
418-745-2519 ext. 227

feature

Proposed solutions to vandalism and violence

Mistissini takes steps to deal with youth crisis

By Will Nicholls

Mistissini is actively working to curb youth violence and vandalism. At a community meeting on January 23 these two issues were the hot topics of the evening.

A look at just the Cree School Board shows how much vandalism costs this community of fewer than 4,000 people. In 2007, it cost $80,000 exactly double the amount of $40,000 in 2006, which had risen from $25,000 in 2005.

The CSB estimates it paid about $210,000 to repair school windows, residences, staff and teacher vehicles and other damage in the past years.

The skyrocketing costs have the community wondering why there is an increase in vandalism. And people are now beginning to ask where the responsibility for these costs should be placed.

A look at how Mistissini is dealing with the problems shows the community is ready to implement concrete solutions. Mistissini has not only looked at the present situation but is looking to create a brighter future for all. They have clearly defined goals, objectives and actions.

The Future

An exercise at a meeting held late last year helped define what kind of community that residents wanted Mistissini to be in 15 years. It was looked at from a Cree point of view and what aspects of Cree culture and ways of life should be enhanced and preserved.

In the past it was said that people visited each other and this would once again be a main part of the community life. Sharing was an aspect that they would like to see continue, where adults would not be afraid to reach out and care for children in distress.

As well, adults would not be afraid to set limits for other people's children. Child rearing was seen as a community effort in the past and children should not be afraid to ask for help. Elders will get back their roles as guides and they will know exactly how to help.

This healthier future would lessen the urge to turn to maladaptive coping mechanisms like alcohol, gambling, drugs or suicide. There would also be a decrease in using violence to resolve conflicts.

The goals set would see youth feeling valued and having a place in the community. Community members would have a sense of ownership and belonging in regards to all aspects of the community whether it is physical, economic or social.

It is recognized that the process to achieve these goals must be community-based and driven, have regional support and be culturally appropriate.

The Plan

Politicians must provide full support to a community-wide intervention. They must also commit to establishing a facility like a drop-in centre, where healers would be available. This will be in the first-year request, along with a demand for a full time psychologist at the school and for the community.

It was said that it is time to assess safety strategies such as curfews and regulations regarding guns and alcohol.

Already Mistissini is planning to prioritize social issues. A committee has been set up to coordinate mental-health services. As well the process to attain a building for wellness workers (healer helpers) has been started.

Work is being done to complete the existing suicide postvention protocols. As well, residents were told the Community Action Group is to be maintained and nurtured.

It was said that local police have debriefing services both in and out of the community. As they are frontline workers they have special needs and maintaining them in this manner will lead to better team integration. It will also be more cost effective than having to train a new member because one has to be replaced through burnout.

Teachers too would get support and specific training concerning bullying and the effects of trauma on students.

It was said that the community must be prepared and ready to change. In order to do this a door-to-door survey is being prepared. It was recognized that some may question the validity of doing yet another survey.

People were told this survey would tell the community how to best use the existing resources. In other words, it would take some of the guesswork out of planning and help match services with needs. It would increase accountability and give members community ownership of the future of Mistissini. It would empower individuals and allow them to voice their concerns in a safe environment (their home).

Thus, the purpose of the survey would be twofold, because even as it obtains information it will inform people on the various services available in Mistissini. Along with the survey, a crisis hotline would be developed and implemented.

Elders are expected to be an important part of the process. Mistissini plans to hold a forum at which community Elders can gather and share their knowledge. They will impart their understanding of common Cree values and develop strategies to bridge the gap between youth and Elders. They will look at ways to pass on their knowledge to others in both traditional and other settings. For example, Elders are involved in the school and interacting with the youth.

Dogs feel the cold too.

Help them weather winter with a warm **dog house** out of the wind and lots of food and water.

Stop dog overpopulation. Visit IFAW's vet clinic in your community this coming spring.

IFAW
www.ifaw.org

Teacher Appreciation Week

The Cree School Board would like to acknowledge all the teachers serving our students for their dedication and commitment to teaching...Meegwetch!

ᐃᔨᔨᐤ ᒋᐋᑕᒪᑌᐧᐃᐣ
Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

In March 2008, training will begin on non-violent intervention strategies and then be repeated every two months. This will not only be for health care workers but will include young offenders, school personal, counselors, teachers and social workers, among others.

Many helpful suggestions have come out of meetings in Mistissini and were presented to the members. Suggestions for decreasing the possibility of violence and vandalism and preventive measures included:

Practical solutions

Local residents talked about the installation of alarm systems and other security devices, fencing for public buildings, hiring of more security guards during vacation periods, and installing special security windows. A need was mentioned for proper lighting at street corners where youth hang out.

Police and Entities

Residents want to set up a patrol system that would include more than just the police. They have expressed a desire get the drug and alcohol pushers out of the community. One community member told *the Nation*, "We know who they are. We have to put pressure on them. Maybe even exile them for some time. We all need to work with the police on this."

His words echoed earlier meetings that said Mistissini has to deal with the root of the problem – drugs and alcohol – and the community has to work together to dismantle the gangs in the community.

During the January 23 meeting, one presenter, Bella M. Petawabino, director of the Awash Team for the CBHSS, said there are four distinct gangs in Mistissini. She also suggested revamping a local drug-and-alcohol program that is culturally relevant to the Cree way of life.

Some ideas were drawn from southern communities, such as setting up a neighborhood watch, a Cadets program for youth, security management with training as to provide support for the police. Street workers could also be hired to patrol the streets at night in Mistissini. These workers would be trained in CPR, first aid and other survival skills. It was suggested that small discussion groups be formed to address different aspects of vandalism and violence.

Parents/Youth Interaction

It was strongly mentioned that parents have to take responsibility to discipline children and take control over them. It was suggested that if the parents do not want to take a role in disciplining their children, then it is anybody's role to take the responsibility to correct the child if the child is misbehaving, disrespectful or bullying.

Children should learn from their parents, parents should talk to their children, said another. One youth from another community told *the Nation* later the biggest problem, he felt, was the lack of parenting. "You can blame the drugs, the alcohol, guns or whatever but it comes down to what the children see in their parents and what values the parents have instilled in them," he said.

He mentioned there were gaps in parenting skills due to residential school but there are solutions. In the meeting one member said there should be parental workshops in the community to help people regain those skills and others.

Some tough love was needed with a suggestion the community ensure there are consequences for youth who vandalize. An example of this was giving the offenders community work with distinctive clothing to show they are in trouble and doing the work because of it. With the community service idea it was said parents should be obligated to pay when their child or children are responsible for vandalizing a building, writing graffiti or break windows.

There had to be more parental support for school and teachers. Along with this would be regular meetings with parents on vandalism, bullying and the importance of having their children go to school on time and be fed before they arrive there.

Suggestions continued as the community came together with people saying parents shouldn't get overly defensive when it comes to their children. They said parents should listen to both sides of the story. When this doesn't happen it becomes one of the reasons why children don't listen and are disrespectful of others. It was stressed that the community has to break the cycle and that children should not have to encounter what parents had to endure in the past. Parents need to spend quality time with their children. Then they will have a sense of belonging and respect rules that will make them better community members. It was said parents should teach children good morals at an early age as then they will be instilled in them always.

People said parents should take children with them when they go out of the community or attend religious gatherings. Children who are left alone are more likely to get into trouble.

Some members wanted more supervised activities for youth that would include setting up activity workshops, programs and services for the youth (i.e., film, arts, theatre, radio programs, Brownies, Boy Scouts, and Girl Guides) adapted to Cree culture.

Because of the numbers of youth wandering the streets late at night it was felt the curfew by-law has be enforced and the siren to indicate the curfew would be reactivated. Parents would assist by taking their children home after the siren is sounded if they are not already there.

The whole community

It was noted that parents who needed to hear what was being discussed weren't coming to the meetings and a way had to be found to bring them to the meetings.

"We need to raise awareness among parents and other members to take responsibility for their children and teach them to be responsible members of Mistissini," said a resident.

At the meeting on January 23 the band said they now need direction from the community to achieve these objectives.

DISTRIBUTION CENTER

NORD SELECT
Division de C. Caron inc.

PROPAC
Mordus de chasse et de pêche

HUNTING • FISHING
CAMPING • CLOTHING
CANVAS

FINANCING AVAILABLE
C.O.D. ACCEPTED

DISTRIBUTOR: NOR-WEST CANOE

THE #1 STORE FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS
DELIVERY TO JAMES BAY

4, Nottaway street, Matagami
nancy@nord-select.qc.ca
Tel.: (819) 739-3883
Fax: (819) 739-3885

WELCOME WACHIYA

Remington
Challenger
tasco
Benelli
BROWNING
WINCHESTER
Husqvarna
Stoeger
Bushnell

RONA
C. CARON INC.

DELIVERY TO JAMES BAY
FINANCING AVAILABLE
WHOLESALERS

CABIN SPECIALIST

TRUSSES
REBAR
TREATED
WOOD

INTERIOR
SERVICES OF
DECORATION
DOORS
WINDOWS
HARDWARE

DIST: LAFARGE CEMENT

THE #1 STORE IN JAMES BAY
FOR 30 YEARS

CARPET
CERAMIC

MATAGAMI
9, Nottaway street
Tel.: (819) 739-2578
Fax: (819) 739-3619

LINOLEUM
FLOATING
FLOORS

Ford
SOMA

Marc Cossette
Sales Rep.

Ford
SOMA
AMOS

Good Deals on
second hand pick-ups,
2005-2006,
low mileage

F150-4 doors

2008 Escape

Ford Dealer in Amos
42, 10e Avenue Ouest
Amos Qc, J9T 1W8
Tel : (866) 468-3205

2nd
CHANCE
CREDIT

Come and visit us
at Soma Auto

Tel : (819) 732-3205 Fax :(819) 732-8111

Spotlight on churches

Search for missing residential school children heats up

By Steve Bonspiel

Defrocked United Church Reverend Kevin Annett is challenging Canada's churches to acknowledge and surrender the remains of an estimated 50,000 children who never returned home from residential schools.

Reverend Annett, along with Ojibwa Chief Louis Daniels and Elder Jeremiah Jourdain presented a letter to Rector Glenn Dion of downtown Vancouver's Holy Rosary Cathedral January 13, demanding the Church answer the allegations within 30 days.

Reverend Kevin Annett

Letters were also sent to the Queen through Governor General Michaëlle Jean and the same letter was presented to Prime Minister Stephen Harper February 4 on Parliament Hill.

The letter, from Friends and Relatives of the Disappeared (FRD), reads in part:

We, as friends and relatives of tens of thousands of children who died or were murdered in Indian residential Schools in Canada established and run by your Church of England and the British Crown from 1867 to 1996, do hereby demand that you, Elizabeth Windsor, in your capacity as Queen of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, and Head of the Church of England, publicly disclose the cause of death, and whereabouts of the buried remains of all children who died in Indian Residential Schools operated by the Church of England in Canada, a.k.a. the Anglican Church.

If you, Elizabeth Windsor, fail to comply with these requirements within 30 days of your receiving this notice through the medium of the Governor-General of Canada, it will be assumed that you do not dispute the claims contained herein, and legal action may be commenced against you.

The $60 million Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up as part of a settlement in a class-action lawsuit against Canada by residential school survivors, is conducting its own investigation into this dark part of Canada's history.

"We're hoping they'll agree to an international inquiry because the government can't do this in any effective way," said Annett. "One of the problems is that the commissioners selected to be on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been appointed by a selection body that includes the former moderator of the United Church. That's a complete conflict of interest."

As well, Annett pointed out, the Prime Minister's Office will approve all three commissioners, which threatens its independence.

> "WE'RE HOPING THEY'LL AGREE TO AN INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T DO THIS IN ANY EFFECTIVE WAY"

If a response is not forthcoming within 30 days from the Queen, Reverend Annett has been consulting lawyers to weigh the options for legal action.

"After a month has elapsed, we are going to possibly take legal action through the International Criminal Court in Geneva or the International Court of Justice in The Hague," said Annett. "It's possible to lay charges against these people. The attempt to conceal crimes against humanities is as serious as doing them."

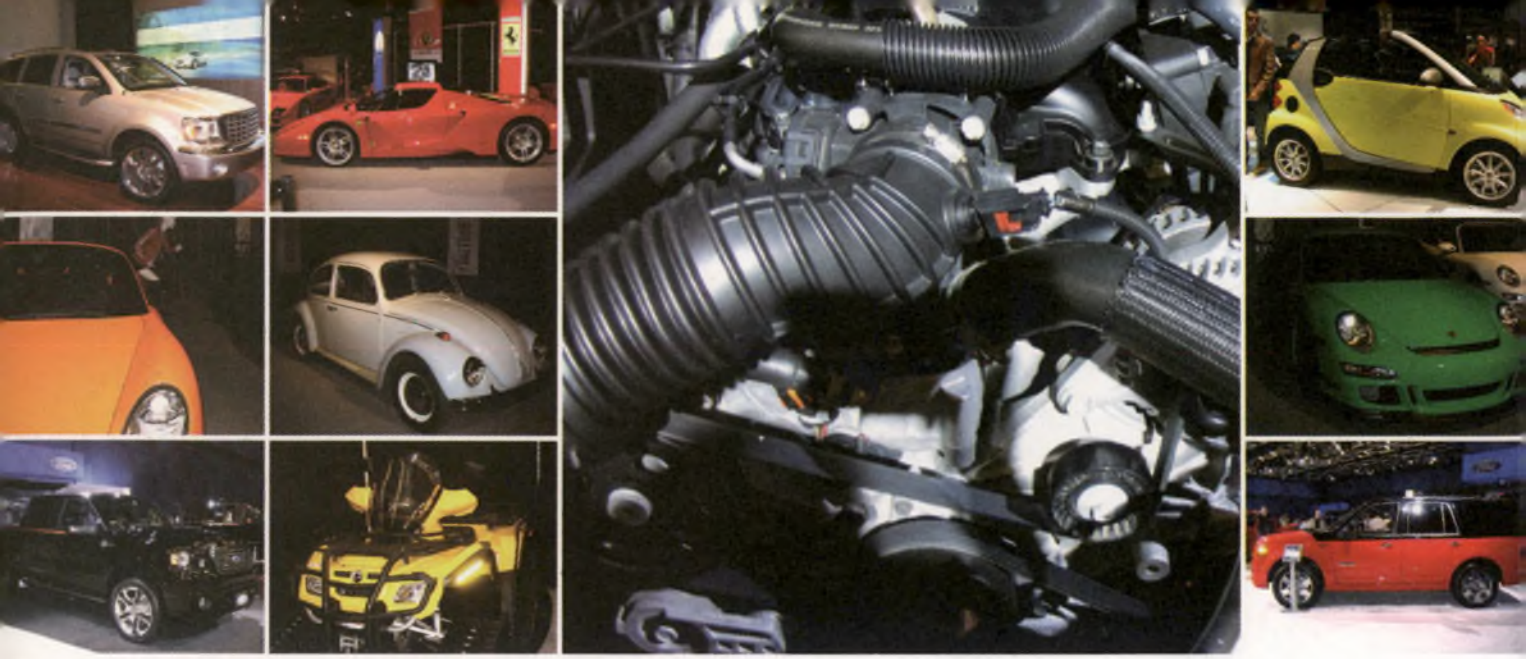
They are also looking at civil disobedience at churches and government offices.

Supporters in BC are ready to disinter graves of some of the students who died at the schools to get an analysis on how they died and to bring them back for proper burial. The alleged graves are said to be behind some of the residential schools.

TRC Chief Bob Watts told the *Globe and Mail* January 1 that criminal acts could have occurred and that the TRC would look into it. He said that there was a high rate of death at the schools and that although it could have been to sickness and disease, it also could "well be things that are more criminal in nature."

The commission will take testimony in the coming months during its five-year mandate into abuse and misdoings at the schools.

"They (Canada) will have to respond in some way because the TRC said they would take testimony on it," said Reverend Annett. "How much they respond and in what way is something else."



Going green at the auto show

By Amy German *Photos by Danielle Valade*

The Montreal International Auto Show turned the big 4-0 this year and as one of Canada's largest vehicle shows with almost 300,000 visitors annually, the show pulled out every stop possible to deliver yet another stellar year.

Running January 18-27, Montreal's auto show has typically been a launch pad and North American unveiling stage for various new car models and concept cars with the 2008 edition.

The MIA changed its format in 2007 to offer a new layout that features two levels for the regular show along with an optional display on the 7th floor that featured a drool-inspiring display of luxury, exotic and vintage automobiles. With companies like Aston Martin, Bentley, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Lotus, Maserati, Maybach, McLaren SLR, Porsche, Rolls-Royce and T-Rex featuring their wares, the "7th Heaven" display was the cherry on the sundae.

Much like every other product sector in Canada, "going green" and talk of making environmentally friendly purchase choices was prevalent, particularly at the Green Zone and the 2008 ecoENERGY award winning vehicles displays.

With growing demand for a more environmentally sound automobile, companies are coming out with hybrid vehicles that could actually replace standard 4x4 vehicles in the north.

Both the GMC Yukon and the Chevy Tahoe have come out with two-mode hybrid technology models for 2008 and though they won't hit the market until later this year, both vehicles will have the same performance as their gas guzzling relatives but will consume 30 per cent less fuel.

Natural Resources Canada ecoEnergy had their own display that featured the standard fare of two-seater electric vehicles. But for those who need a bit more horsepower, there were also a few large-body vehicles. The Ford Ranger, the Mazda B2300, the Ford Escape Hybrid, the Mazda5 and both the Chevrolet Express Cargo and the GMC Savana Cargo all received Environment Canada's stamp of approval for 2008 as best buys for fuel economy, making them the best green choices in terms of vehicle purchases for this year. For the full

list of these vehicles and more information on how to select an environmentally conscious automobile, go to their website at www.ecoaction.gc.ca/.

When it came to standard trucks, Chevy served up its usual heavy hitters with the Avalanche, Colorado and Silverado. Starting out at $23,000, the Colorado compact truck features a basic 2.9 litre, four-cylinder engine and 185 horsepower, making it a cost-effective buy.

Moving up the line, the recently overhauled Silverado features a basic 4.3 litre engine but this truck offers so many different versions that it could be customized to fit just about anyone's needs. Starting at $23,000, it makes for a good, mid-sized truck.

The Avalanche, on the other hand, offers all of the comfort of an SUV with pickup capabilities. This 4WD vehicle is naturally pricier than the others but with its 5.3-litre V8 engine, and design for comfort, it is the best of both worlds. For more info go to www.gmcanada.com/gm/

For as much as the SUV class has garnered criticism over the last few years, carmakers are still hard at work to make new models both efficient and appealing.

The Korean made KIA Sorento mid-sized SUV comes out on top in 2008 after having gone through a redesign and now features more efficient power trains. Aesthetically, the SUV now features changes to the vehicle's rear and a two-toned paint job but more importantly the vehicle now features a new 3.3-litre V6 engine. With a sticker price of $32,495, it's a great bet for the price. www.kia.ca/

Ford is also synonymous with large-body vehicles that are ideal for driving in Canada's Great White North and depending on your budget and needs, there are a lot of options for those out shopping for a new vehicle.

Both the Ford Explorer and Explorer Sport Trac feature 4.0-litre V6 210 horsepower engines though the Sport Trac is a cross between an SUV and a pick-up truck. Both vehicles are powerful as they are comfortable but the Sport Trac can be ordered with two-wheel drive if so desired. The Explorer retails for about $41,399 and the Sport Trac starts at $32,099.

Of course these suggestions are but a mere tiny taste of the hundreds of vehicles on display at the MIA to see what else they are serving up go to www.montrealautoshow.com.

James Bay Cree Telephone Book 2008

Meegwetch!

We here at Beesum Communications would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who generously contributed to updating the new Cree phone book. We could not have done it without you!

Special thanks go out to the Band Council representatives who graciously compiled and updated community telephone listings. Your dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated.

The 2008 Phone Books are in! Please pick up your copy at your community band office.

Please make Cheque or Money Order for

$25.00 *

(This includes Shipping & Handling)

To:

Beesum Communications
4529 Clark St., bur. 403
Montreal, Qc, H2T 2T3

* for residents outside of the communities add taxes for a total of $28.22

Please fill in and return with payment:

Order Form

I would like _____ copies of the **James Bay CREE Phone Book** at $25.00 each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Postal Code: _____ **Tel:** _____

The Medicine Wheel

Wanda Gabriel combines Western and traditional knowledge to help her people heal

By Séri Jacobs

When I first met Wanda Gabriel I was struck by her fierce yet calm determination. She had been invited to conduct a workshop at the Annual General Meeting of the Native Women's Shelter of Montréal at the Maritime Plaza Hotel January 18. We sat down to chat just after Gabriel had completed her workshop presentation, "Street Talk and Rez Talk: The Challenges of Living On- and Off-Reserve."

A Mohawk from Kanesatake, one of her first experiences with helping others deal with personal issues came during the 1990 Oka Crisis.

As a young person behind the barricades of the 78-day standoff, she felt compelled to reach out and offer support to those who needed someone to listen and understand.

Along with her experience at Kanesatake in 1990, Gabriel's time working at the Onentoken Treatment Centre in the early 90s, and the harrowing incident of an arson attack on her brother Kanesatake Grand Chief James Gabriel's home as a result of a political dispute in January 2004, steered her toward the path of professional counselling and helped shape the person she is today.

After completing her high school equivalency she earned her certificate in addictions counselling, and then went on to start her BSW at Carleton University before attending McGill in 2001, where she earned her Masters degree in social work.

Throughout her years of study she never forgot who she was or where she came from. As she learned the way of Western medicine and therapy she also maintained a connection to the Aboriginal approach to healing the mind and spirit.

"While I'm doing my formal Western training, it's been my conscious choice to learn all I can about being Onkwehonwe. So I've really tried to bring these two ways of being into my world: the healing from an Aboriginal perspective [combined with the Western perspective]. These healing tools have really helped me in my way of doing things."

This balanced way of looking at the world has definitely had an impact. She had to learn to recognize and reconcile her own issues before she could help others with theirs.

"When I was doing my studies I was challenged by one of the professors who told me that I was too angry, and that I needed to do something with my anger as people couldn't hear what I was saying because I was too angry," said Gabriel. "As a result, I've really been working at speaking and softening my voice. One of the Elders I often visit once said that our role as helpers is to be able to speak the truth without blame or judgment."

Many in attendance at Gabriel's workshop were keen to acknowledge how and why the difficult choice to move off-reserve can be painful for many First Nations people.

When considering reasons for staying, the discussion touched on cultural loyalty, the sense of belonging on home reserves, a sense of safety they feel would not or could not exist beyond the reserve borders, and the cultural ties they fear would be lost if they left.

> OUR ROLE AS HELPERS IS TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK THE TRUTH WITHOUT BLAME OR JUDGMENT

Nakuset, Executive Director of the Native Women's Shelter and Wanda Gabriel, MSW

Yet, as much as they love their families and cherish their Aboriginal heritage, there are issues that leave some First Nations people with no choice: abuse, violence and trauma; homophobia; poverty and lack of educational or employment opportunities; housing issues, and an overall sense of not belonging. Some may even be forced to leave by Native laws after "marrying out."

People may go to the cities in order to discover themselves and express their individuality that they feel might otherwise be oppressed; for post-secondary schooling and careers, or for a fresh start in general.

Despite the many heavy topics that were touched upon during the workshop discussions, including the residential school legacy, cultural and legal Aboriginal identities and issues regarding the Indian Act, Gabriel managed to leave things on a positive note.

"From our ancestors, we are taught that everything in life is circular," she said. "We are one within the circle of life. The Medicine Wheel teaches us that the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects must be in balance in order to maintain a healthy heart, mind, spirit and body."

Bareau AUTO INC.

Jean-Claude Moreau
Your Northern Sales Representative!

1100, 3e Avenue Est
Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 4P8
Bur.: (819) 825-6880
Fax: (819) 825-8980
1-877-625-6880

GM Canada | CHEVROLET | GM Canada Optimum VÉHICULES D'OCCASION

Proud to serve the Cree Nation!

Automne 2008
PROGRAMMES UNIVERSITAIRES pour les
PREMIÈRES NATIONS

- **Certificat en administration (temps partiel)**
- **Baccalauréat en éducation préscolaire et en enseignement primaire (temps plein)**

Offerts en français au campus de Val-d'Or

Certificats offerts à temps partiel dans les communautés si le nombre d'étudiants est suffisant (certificats en administration, en sciences comptables, en intervention auprès des groupes et en gestion, etc.)

Service Premières Nations :
- Aide à la réussite
- Aide psychosociale
- Bourses d'études
- Références aux services communautaires et universitaires
- Salon des Premières Nations

Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Date limite d'admission, 1er mars 2008
Application deadline, March 1st 2008

Information
Janet Mark
819 874-3837 poste 338
Sans frais – Toll free
1 866 891-8728 poste 338
janet.mark@uqat.ca

www.uqat.ca

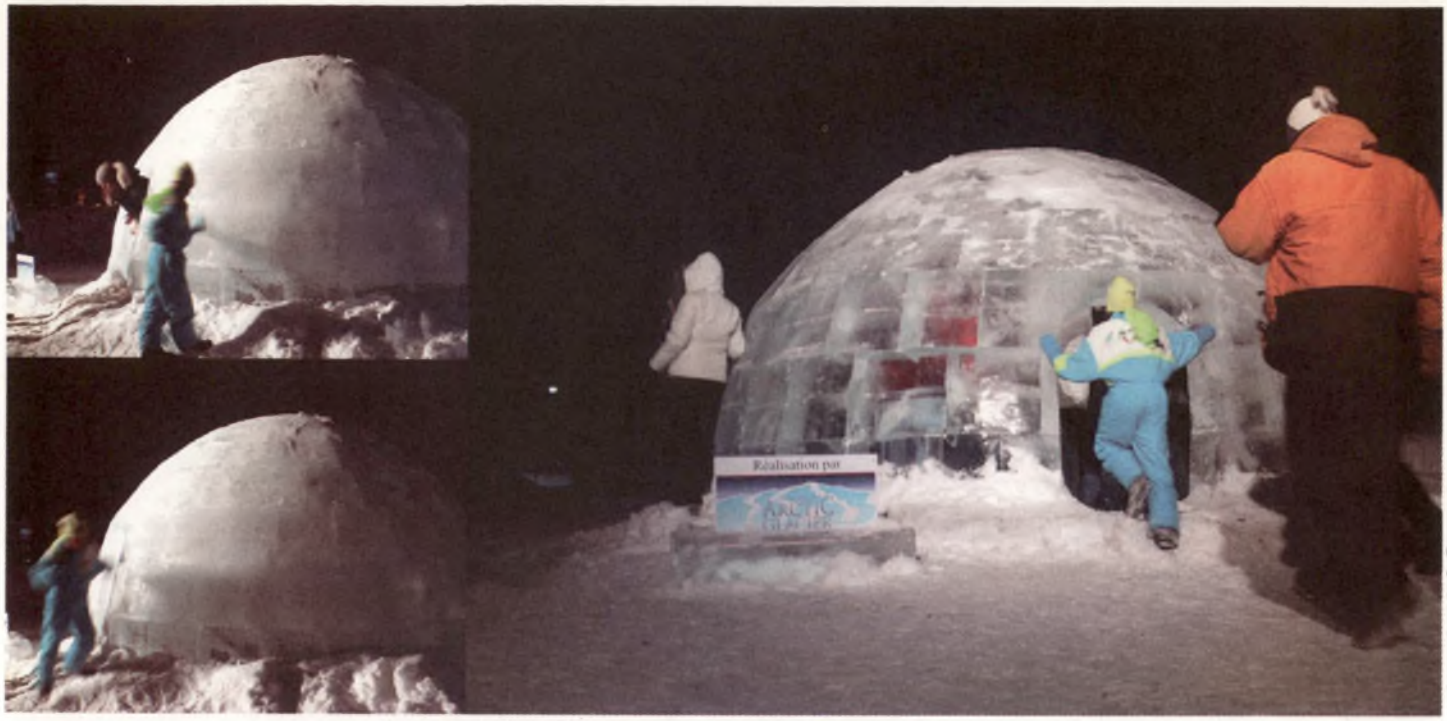
Fall 2008
UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS for
FIRST NATIONS

- **Certificate in Administration (Full time)**
- **Multidisciplinary Business Certificate (Full time)**
- **Bachelor of Social Work (Full time)**

Offered in English at the Val-d'Or campus

Part-time certificate are offered in communities if the number of registered students is sufficient (Certificates in Administration, in Accounting, in Group Intervention and in Management, etc.)

First Nations Services:
- Strategies for success
- Counselling services
- Scholarships
- Referrals to community and university services
- First Nations Lounge



photos by Mark Grenier

Montreal's Igloofest ices beat elite

By Amy German

When it comes to parties, Montreal has become a regular stop on the international dance circuit. But no North American event is as unique as Igloofest, the outdoor wintertime dance party in Old Montreal.

Now in its second year, Igloofest brought bundled-up Montrealers out by the thousands to dance to the techno beats of some of the world's finest DJs under the night sky. The Quay at the Old Port underwent a makeover with hundreds of light strands hung from the surrounding scaffoldings, giving the outdoor space the appearance of an indoor dance club. The southern point of the outdoor club featured a light-heated stage, complete with projection screens for synchronised visuals and lighting special effects.

Patrons entered the event through a large, carved-ice archway bearing the festival's name in large lettering. Upon entering, revellers travelled through the magnificent "Igloo Park," which also served as a chill-out area for those wanting to take a few moments out from the intensity of the party. Several artistic interpretations of igloos were on display in this area thanks to event sponsor Arctic Glacier, which commissioned the pieces.

Adding to the fun and frivolous atmosphere, patrons were encouraged to don their tackiest one-piece snowsuit for an all-out retro winterwear contest. Contestants were awarded nightly for their efforts and many went to extremes, wearing fluorescent fun-fur hats, frightening floral prints and any other variety of long-forgotten winter apparel.

Each night of the four-day, two-weekend event featured DJs sponsored by local event promoters such as Mutek or Ninja Tune. The weekend of January 18-19 featured Josh Wink, Abe Duque, Plaslaiko and Lee Curtiss from the US and both Misstress Barbara and Arsen from Canada. The following weekend saw locals Ghislain Poirier, Millimetrik and Mateo Murphy along with Devlin & Darko of Spank Rock, Deadelus from the US, Ghostbeard from the United Kingdom and Germany's own Thomas Schumacher.

Montreal *Mirror* music journalist Lorraine Carpenter was on hand getting her groove on. "It's a unique atmosphere," said Carpenter. "Just the element of being outdoors really gives it a fresh feel. This is a big opportunity to avoid hibernating."

Though the 2008 event has gone down in the record books as a stellar year, the event will be back next January. Piknic Electronik puts on various events throughout the year outside of their summer schedule. For more information go to www.piknicelectronik.com

Best Choice!
Best Price!

MOTO SPORT
LA SARRE INC.

427, 2e Rue est
La Sarre, QC
J9Z 2J2

Toll Free 1-866-333-7227

Section pour enfant:

Polaris Pro-X 120 (New)

Arctic Cat Z-120 (New)

Snow Hawks Junior (New)

Arctic Cat (New)	Ski-Doo Tundra (Second Hand)
Polaris (New)	Ski-Doo LT 440 (Second Hand)
Snow Hawk 600 HO (New)	Ski-Doo WT 20" & SWT 24" (Second Hand)

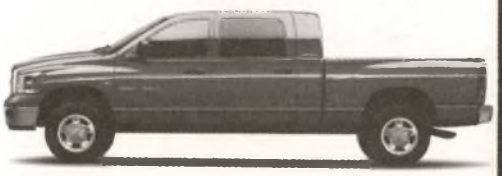
barrautechrysler.ca

DODGE NITRO

215, 3e Avenue
Val d'Or, Qc
J9P 1R7

T: 819-825-0880
F: 819-825-1540

RAM MEGA CAB



ᑲ ᐸᕆᓴ ᐅ ᒥᓂᓐᐃᑭᓐ, ᐊᐟ
ᒪᐟ ᑲ ᒥᖅᑯᓴ ᐊᑦ ᑲ
ᒪᑯᓂᑭᓐᐃᐟ ᐊᑐ ᐅᐢᒥ
ᑭᔭᑕᐊᕐᕆᑭᓂᐃᑦ ᐅᑕᐸᓇᓐᓴ
ᐊᑦ ᐅᑎᓂᑲᓱᑲ ᐅᑕᐸᓇᓐᓴ.

AUTOMOBILE CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep BARRAUTE

Mention this ad and get a free remote starter with the puchase of any vehicle

Grand Caravan

Robert "Bob" Labrecque
cell: 819-860-4250
Yvon St-Pierre
Representatives

Serge Labrecque
Service

Jeep WRANGLER

barrautechrysler.ca

Parents are the best teachers

I would like to compliment you on an excellent edition of your newsmagazine, titled "Crisis in Education." The editorial is excellent and it continues on the inside with very good articles. For me, it is the first time that I have seen the responsibility for the care, maintenance, and education of children placed with parents.

For as many psychologists, social workers and other "professional" helpers that we could have available, it is with the parents that children spend the most time. The psychologist or social worker can only spend an hour or so with the youth from time to time and, even if you are the best psychologist, you cannot change in one hour a problem that may have taken 15 years to create.

Parents are the best teachers, role models, and guides that a child could have. And if they are setting a bad example or if young children are roaming the streets at night because there is a party at their house it is the parents' responsibility of parents to correct the situation. Children live what they learn.

Bryan Bishop
Director of Youth Protection

Dear Nation

I just read your article about the native studies and what's right for you? Just to let you know that at **Concordia University** we are also offering:

The First Peoples Studies program is a Major designed to introduce the student to the world of First Peoples (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis), specifically within the Quebec context. It investigates the history, the current situation, and the changing needs of First Peoples. Taught from First Peoples perspectives and based on sound, culturally sensitive research, the program's aim is to bring accurate awareness and a better understanding of First Peoples issues, develop further understanding of society's standing in relation to First Peoples, and build bridges towards mutual understanding between Quebec society and First Peoples. Students are encouraged, though not required, to take either a Minor in another area of study, or a second Major in order to facilitate the acquisition of complementary knowledge and practical skills relevant to contributing to the well being and advancement of First Peoples.
Program: BA Major in First Peoples Studies
check the website below for more information, thanks
http://registrar.concordia.ca/calendar/31/31.540.html

Silvana

Teach trade skills

Yes, there is crisis in education, not only to Cree, but to the Inuit also. When I was growing up and went to Federal Day School, I clearly remember what our teacher told us: that you are being taught a second language so that in your future, you will be able to look for work to provide for yourself.

This is not the case anymore where we are being taught with our mother language and this is not help at all. All the work is provided by government. We cannot build factories where we will be able to provide work for our people. It is clear that using our own language to teach in schools will not land us a job.

Maybe it is time to go back to where we were before and have an education like Federal Day School where an aboriginal could learn a trade. It is no wonder that the kids nowadays don't like school because they are being taught what they don't understand.

Charlie Kowcharlie

Did you know?
You can be cost efficient
Outsource work with peace of mind

Beesum communications

4529 Clark, Suite 403, Montréal, QC H2T 2T3 T: 514-272-3077 F: 514-278-9914
www.beesum-communications.com beesum@beesum-communications.com
First Nations First for Supplies and Services

YOU PLAY.
YOU BORROW.
I LOSE.
Do you borrow from your loved ones to solve your gambling problem?
You have everything to gain by asking for help.
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
SUPPORT SERVICE OR CALL
1 800 461-0140
www.DontBetItAll.com
www.cssspnql.com
Québec

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Extreme challenges are a serious business

by Xavier Kataquapit

I shovelled the driveway on a recent afternoon just to get some exercise. It was one of those bright, sunny January days with a temperature at a bone-chilling minus-30 degrees Celcius. The dry, cold air made it difficult to work. The harder I worked, the more air I had to breathe in. The more I breathed in, the more my nose had to work to heat up the cold air I was drawing into my body.

By the end of an hour, I was out of breath, my nose was runny and I was getting very cold in my light clothing. On entering my house, I realized that I had broken one of the basic rules of living in the cold. My parents and Elders always warned us never to work too hard in frigid weather. They encouraged us to complete whatever task was at hand out in the cold but they also reminded us to take it easy and not to push ourselves to the limit.

I had forgotten this rule and I was reminded of it as I peeled off my wet jacket and clothes. I had worked up a great sweat even in my light clothes at -30 and all because I was just shovelling too ferociously. Working up a sweat just outside your warm house is not a huge problem. However, doing so when you are out on the land with no warm shelter nearby can be deadly.

Most Cree kids learn a lot about surviving in the cold from Elders and from trappers and hunters who have had to endure extreme temperatures for most of their lives. Our people have adapted to this freeze over centuries. An experienced traditional person living on the land is capable of venturing into the wilderness for days in minus-30 and minus-40 degree weather with merely the supplies he is capable of carrying on his back. I have known many trappers and hunters from Attawapiskat who are comfortable in their abilities to survive in the cold. They carry with them years of knowledge of the land, the weather, locations of shelter, locations of food, available water and any danger zones. They also have a network of relations and friends on the land that they know will help them if the need arises.

In recent years, something called extreme sports or challenges have become very popular. Many people have joined this trend and in groups or as individuals they are pushing their limits as far as possible. Businesses and tours are being built around this trend.

On the James Bay coast a few years back, a young extreme traveller passed by the community in the dead of winter as part of a cross-country trek with a dog team to pull his supplies. When he arrived in Attawapiskat, he was half way on his trek to reach the east coast of Canada. He planned on being there by spring. The traveller was exhausted and his dogs were weak.

This young man stayed at our family hotel. My dad Marius admired his courage and stamina, but dad also understood what hardships he and his dogs had to face. While this extreme traveller stayed in Attawapiskat, dad tended to his dogs by feeding them a special brew of stewed meat. This was a concoction that dad fed his dog team when he was young. By the time they were ready to leave, this young man's dogs were rested and ready to face the cold again. I believe he survived his quest though I am not sure if he made it to the east coast.

This past month, Martin Murray of Kapuskasing, was another extreme athlete / traveller who set himself the adventure of skiing across James Bay with his dog. His quest was met with unfortunate luck as he travelled on the bay during a brief warm spell that brought a terrible storm, rain, sleet and high winds. After a gruelling ordeal he managed to survive the wet and freezing environment but he had to abandon his trip. He made a wise decision because those types of wet conditions in the far north, when temperatures can change overnight, are deadly.

I admire in some ways those people who are dedicating themselves to the challenge or extreme conditions, but there are limits. Life in the freezing, far and remote north is all about survival. Our people have lived in this cold environment for generations; it is a way of life that we were born into. Elders would never understand the need to head out onto the land just as a matter of challenge or pride. Our people go out there as part of a way of life to hunt, trap and fish as a means of survival.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS

I wanna say Congratulations! to my cousins, Anita Kitty & her husband Bradley on the birth of their daughter Anna Faitof your little ones and have joyous times with them and love them always! Children are a blessing from God above. Nii Tricia xoxoxox.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy 72nd Birthday to George Stewart from Wemindji. We love you so much! With love from your wife Ellen, your children, grandchildren and your great grandchildren.

Happy Birthday Dez!!! I miss you which makes me ask myself when was the last time we saw each other...I don't remember. Well now that were "all grown up" we should get 2gether and chit chat like we used to when we were all living under the same roof. I hope you and your son are doing great and maybe someday when we are old, grey and widows...we'll live under the same roof again lol! (that's a joke). Anyways email me with an update. STAY LIBERATED!!!! Luv ya lots! Katrina.

Happy Birthday to a wonderful little girl Aaliyah Tomatuk who is turning 6 on February 9th, 2008. We hope your day is full of wonderful suprises :) Love your mom, your litle brother Spencer, Goo-Goo and your Aunties Krystine, Katelyn and Marilyn. We love you.

We would like to send a birthday greeting to our colleague JUSTINE N. SHANUSH from Eastmain who is celebrating her 5th (20th) Birthday on February 29th, 2008. We hope you have a GREAT day, from everyone at the Wellness Centre :)

We would like to wish our 2 boys happy 2nd birthday to Jaylen Salt and happy 1st birthday to Jaysen Salt both on Feb. 2. We love you both so much, love Mom & Dad.

This birthday wish goes out to Shayna-Joy Blacksmith-Ritchie, she is turning 12 yrs old on January 30, 2008. My dearest daughter: You are a true blessing, you're turning out to be a nice young lady, smart...keep up the good marks in school, beautiful and very special. I love you so much, and enjoy your special day and God Bless. Love Mom.

Happy 1st Birthday to our grand-son Antoine Gunner on February 9. May each and every day of your life be filled with joy, peace, and love. May "the joy of the Lord be your strength". Be blessed in Jesus Name! With love, Grandma, Grandpa, & your Uncles.

ANNIVERSARIES

Hello Nation! I want to wish my sweet n' wonderful husband a very happy 11th wedding anniversary on March 1 2008 & God willing many, many more years to come. Thank you for all the happiness you have given me, I'm so blessed ! Love ya very much Billy! God Bless.....X0X Sue.

VALENTINES WISHES

Just wanna send a "Valentine Wish" to Janice Polson (Was). My love for you is a journey. It starts with FOREVER and ends with NEVER. I feel so blessed to have you with me in this journey. HAPPY VALENTINE and may GOD bless you and love you in ways only Heaven can. Thanks for your love, Michel (Was).

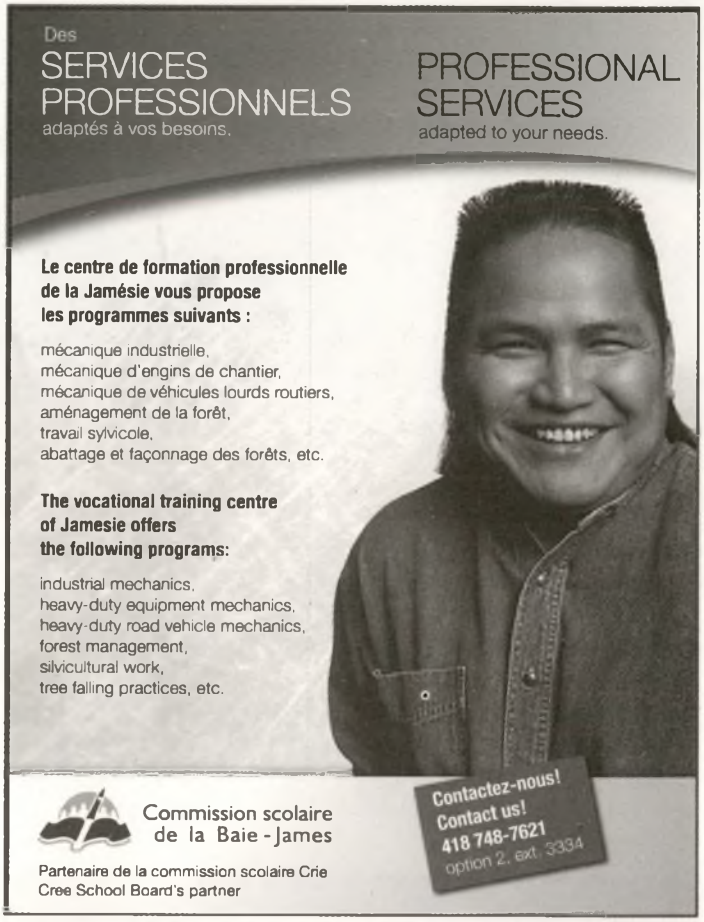
CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate our 10 year old daughter, Faith Gertina Moses on killing her first caribou of her life time @ km 292 on the James Bay highway.. Love Mom (Gertie) Dad (Clayton) & Brother (Marky-boy). We also wanna wish her a happy 11th birthday on February 15 2008 and many more to come! We love u so much Faith..much much much..Love Mom(Gertie) Dad (Clayton) & Brother (Marky-Boy).

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out our website at: www.nwsm.info and feel free to give us any feedback.

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call Kid's Help Phone's toll-free at: 1-800-668-6868, or visit: www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca.



CLASSIFIEDS ARE FREE FOR EVERYONE

PERSONALS, BIRTHS, ANNIVERSARIES, MESSAGES, ETC.

How to get your info to us :

By Fax : 514-278-9914

By email: Beesum@beesum-communications.com

On the web go to:
http://www.beesum-communications.com/nation/
and click on "Place a classified"

Snail Mail:
4529 Clark Suite 403
Montréal, Qc, H2T 2T3

If you wish to add a picture, it is possible for $10.00. Send money order
Contact us at 514-272-3077 for more details.

All Classified will be reviewed;
any improper content may be withheld.

NO MATTER WHAT THEY LOOK OUT ON, ENERGY STAR® QUALIFIED WINDOWS OFFER THE BEST ENERGY RATINGS.

If you install ENERGY STAR® qualified windows throughout your home, you're looking at savings of up to 10% on your heating bill. Not only that, but you'll enjoy greater comfort too. For the best performance, find out which models are recommended by Natural Resources Canada for the climate zone you live in.
www.hydroquebec.com/residential

LOOK TO THE STARS!
CONTEST
20 wide-screen TVs to be won*
To enter, opt for ENERGY STAR® qualified windows or patio doors between October 1, 2007, and April 20, 2008, inclusive.
www.hydroquebec.com/residential

Hydro Québec

Agence de l'efficacité énergétique
Québec

You Save and the Environment Benefits!

*This contest runs from October 1, 2007, to April 20, 2008, inclusive. It is open to Québec residents 18 years of age and older at the time of entering the contest or condominium associations (syndicates) that opt for ENERGY STAR® qualified windows or patio doors to renovate or construct a residential building in Québec. Other terms and conditions of contest participation apply. No purchase required. Participants must complete an entry form and send it to the address specified in the contest rules. Participants whose entry form is selected must answer a mathematical skill-testing question. The draw will be held on May 20, 2008. Prizes may differ from the illustration. The approximate retail value of each prize is $2,300. No cash alternatives or substitutions allowed. For more information, consult the contest rules online at www.hydroquebec.com/residential or order a paper copy by calling 1 800 ENERGIE (363-7443).

Parenting with Confidence

ᐊ ᑕᐱᑦᓯᓂᐊᐦᐃᑲᓐᐧᐃᐊᐦᐃᑲ